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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1937

URBAN DISTRICT OF BOWDON

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Area of the Urban District of Bowdon is 1090 acres. The Registrar General's estimate of the population is 3,146, a decrease of 70 as compared with last year.

The Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1937 according to the Rate Book was 962, an increase of 93.

The Rateable Value of the District is £40,000 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £157.

The Social Conditions, are good. The District is almost entirely residential. No industries are carried on and the population is but slightly affected by unemployment.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	(Legitimate)	27	15	12
	(Illegitimate)	2	2	-
Still Births		1	1	-

Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated population = 9.54

Still Births Rate per 1000 total (live & still births) = 33.3

Deaths Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population = 20.98

+ Corrected by C.F. = 18.67

These figures show considerable change from the previous year. The birth rate has increased, but not sufficiently to offset a considerable increase in the death rate, which is nearly double that of last year.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Rate per 1000 total births	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes	"	" " " " "	Nil.

+ C.F. = ·89

Death Rate of Infants under One year.

All infants per 1000 live births	68.9
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	37.0
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.	500.

The total infantile death rate is thus higher than in the previous year and the death rate amongst legitimate infants is higher but owing to the small numbers involved, no deductions can be drawn from these figures.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil.
" " Cancer	5.

There has been no excessive mortality from any cause, and there has been no outstanding cause of sickness or invalidity.

Section B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (i) The Medical Officer of Health is a part time Officer. J. H. Kerr, M.D., M.R.C.P.(E)., resigned this appointment on March 31st, and I was appointed to succeed him.

The Sanitary Inspector, who also acts as Surveyor to the Council is a whole time official. This position is filled by Mr. A. E. Shimmings, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J. Board and the Meat Inspector's Certificate (R.S.I.).

(ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities. Materials are sent to the Public Health Institute, Manchester.

(b) Ambulance Facilities. The Hale & Bowdon Joint Ambulance is available and this arrange-

ment has proved satisfactory.

(c) Nursing-in-Home. There is a district nurse whose services are available where necessary.

(d) Clinics & Treatment Centres. None are provided by the Council, nor has the need for them arisen. The Cheshire County Council provide an Infant Clinic in Bowdon Vale.

(e) Hospitals. Altrincham General Hospital (100 beds) is available for general and gynecological cases. Obstetrical cases may be sent to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester. Use is also made of the Manchester Hospitals for general cases. St. Anne's Home, Dunham Massey, is a hospital with 50 beds for diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat and some medical cases are also admitted. There is an arrangement with Manchester for the reception of cases of Smallpox should the need arise.

Section C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) Water is supplied by the Manchester Corporation. Both quality and quantity have been satisfactory throughout the year.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage. No extension has been made during the year and none is required.

2. Rivers & Streams. No pollution of the two streams in the area has been reported and no action has been necessary.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation. There are 14 privies and 3 pail closets in the rural part of the area. All closets on the conservancy system have been already converted to the water carriage system where this has been possible.

(ii) Public Cleansing. There has been no alteration.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Inspections of house drainage	42.
" " water courses & ditches	8
" " cowsheds	9
" " dairies	9
" " milkshops	6
" " workplaces	6
" " overground bakehouses	7
" " underground "	2
" " places where food is sold or produced	21
Infectious disease inspections and revisits	12
Miscellaneous Inspections	38

(iv) Shops. Particulars of action re ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences. No action necessary.

(v) Smoke Abatement. There is no smoke nuisance in the area and no action has been necessary.

(vi) Swimming Baths & Pools. There are none within the Urban District of Bowdon.

(vii) Eradication of Bed Budgs. No action has been necessary.

4. Schools. The sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools in the area have been satisfactory.

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Section D. HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects 25

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 28

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925).. ... 25

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 28

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices 14

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Resort to these powers has not been necessary.

4. Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding. During the year one case of overcrowding was abated, the tenant finding alternative accommodation. No new cases were discovered during the year and four cases still remain.

Section E. INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Inspection of Dairies 10

" " Cowsheds 11

Bacteriological examination of milk in the area is now conducted by the County Authority.

(b) Meat & other Foods.

There is one meat shop. This shop is satisfactory. 2 overground and 1 underground bakehouses have been inspected 9 times during the year and found satisfactory. The 12 other places where food is sold or prepared have been inspected 21 times and found satisfactory.

(c) Adulteration etc.

No adulteration has been reported and no action

has therefore been required.

(d) Chemical & Bateriological Examination of Food.

This is done for the Council by the Manchester Public Health Laboratory with the exception of milk already noted, which is done by the County.

(e) Nutrition.

The Council have not during the year undertaken any special work or instruction in the matter of nutrition.

Section F. PREVALENCE OF, & CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

There were no cases of Puerperal Fever or Puerperal Pyrexia.

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided by the Altrincham Isolation Hospital. This has proved ample and is used for most of such cases. Measles and Whooping Cough are normally nursed at home but where considered advisable they can be admitted to Altrincham Isolation Hospital.

Only five cases of notifiable infectious disease, apart from tuberculosis, were notified during the year.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Enteric Fever ...	1	1	-
Puerpal Fever ...	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-
Pnuemonia	1	1	2
Erysipelas	2	1	-

In addition to the above, two cases of suspected Scarlet Fever were removed to hospital. They did not, however, turn out to be of an infectious character and were not notified. Probably several cases of pnuemonia were not notified.

Other Diseases.

(a) Cancer.

There were 5 deaths from cancer during the year. No particular trade was affected. The localisation of these cases was as follows:-

1 Cancer of the Stomach
1 " " " Generative Organs.
1 " " " Intestines.
1 " " " Breast.
1 " " " Pancreas.

The Holt Radium Institute, Manchester, is available for the treatment of Bowdon cases.

(b) Blindness.

Manchester Eye Hospital can be resorted to for treatment. No preventive action has been necessary.

(c) Tuberculosis.

No action has been necessary with regard to persons suffering from tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, and compulsory removal to hospital has not been required. No new cases were notified during the year, and there were no deaths from tuberculosis.

W.N.W.KENNEDY, M.D., M.R.C.P.Ed.,D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,

BOWDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.